

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /103 W

----- 097251

R 031445 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2592

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, AL

SUBJECT: VATICAN SOLICITUDE FOR ALBANIA

REFERENCE: ILLING- VAN HEUVEN LTR OF JAN 31 (NOTAL)

1. WITHOUT NAMING IT BUT IN UNQUESTIONABLE REFERENCE TO ALBANIA, POPE PAUL IN HIS APRIL 1 ADDRESS TO CROWDS IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE ASKED FAITHFUL TO PRAY FOR BROTHERS IN FAITH WHO UNABLE CELEBRATE IN FULL AND ENJOY EASTER FEAST. PONTIFF CONTINUED THAT: " THERE IS STILL A CHURCH FORCED TO LIVE, RATHER TO SURVIVE, IN THE DARKNESS OF FEAR, SUFFOCATED AND PARALYZED BY CONTRIVED AND OPPRESSIVE LEGAL RESTRAINTS -- A CHURCH OF SILENCE, OF PATIENCE, OF AGONY, FOR LACK OF THE LEGIMATE AND NATURAL FREEDOM TO PRACTICE, AS LOYAL CITIZENS, THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS FAITH AND TO EXERCISE THEIR PROPER MISSION OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION AND THEIR PROPER FUNCTION OF SOCIAL CHARITY." POPE ALSO ASKED THAT PRAYERS INCLUDE THOSE WHO THROUGH LACK OF ENLIGHTENMENT HAVE CREATED LAMENTABLE SITUATIONS FOR RELIGION.

2. " OSSERVATORE ROMANO" APR 3 CARRIED LENGTHY UNSIGNED EDITORIAL ATTACKING RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION IN ALBANIA. EDITORIAL CONTAINED BRIEF HISTORY OF GOA ATHEISTIC CAMPAIGN WITH EXAMPLES OF PROFANE
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USES TO WHICH NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES HAD BEEN PUT. ARTICLE
NOTES THAT POPE PAUL HAD PREVIOUSLY REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING
ALBANIA BY SSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VATICAN SOLICITUDE FOR ALBANIA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730324/aaaahicw.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ILLING- VAN HEUVEN LTR OF JAN 31
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971113
Subject: VATICAN SOLICITUDE FOR ALBANIA
TAGS: PFOR, AL, VT
To: ATHENS
BELGRADE
EUR
MOSCOW
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

